

And, you know, I guess, yeah, it's conceivable, yes.⁷¹⁰

Babbitt rejected other possible explanations for why he would say something to Eckstein about contributions. For example, he said he was sure he did not say anything to Eckstein suggesting that gaming Indian tribes now have money to make significant contributions, or that through large contributions, tribes can pressure decision-makers, even though he had been friendly with Eckstein throughout his political life, including several campaigns:

Q: On the one hand, you refer to your nominal boss or superior at the White House; on the other hand, you might refer to the cold realities of political influence by, in this instance, tribes that contribute – tribes that have the wherewithal to contribute to [D]emocratic politics.

Is that second element of this discussion something that is consistent in any part of your memory, Mr. Babbitt.

A: No, no.

Q: Is there any reason you think that is not what happened?

A: Okay. Again, I have no recollection of this – yeah, I have reason to think that it didn't happen because I was – during this period of time, to the very best of my recollection, I wasn't in – I didn't have information or involvement in these funding issues.

Now, you've cited the Duffy exchange which went to the Pequots. I don't know about that. I don't recollect that.

But I have no reason to think that I was trying to rationalize or share or share the blame in terms of talking about contributions by these tribes. That strikes me as very, very unlikely.⁷¹¹

⁷¹⁰*Id.* at 157-58.

⁷¹¹*Id.* at 176-77.